

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190161

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PENULTIMATE & LAST LINE PARA. 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XA, PINS

SUBJECT: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS
OBSERVERS IN FOURTH COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 3330

1. PORTUGUESE APPARENTLY ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING
TO VOTE QUESTION OF SEATING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS OBSERVERS IN FOURTH COMMITTEE
SOON AFTER COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK SEPTEMBER 24. VOTE LAST
YEAR ON RECOMMENDATION OF CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE OF 24 THAT
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BE OBSERVERS WAS 78 FOR, 13 AGAINST
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(US), 16 ABSTENTIONS.

2. WE EXPECT VOTE THIS YEAR WILL RUN EVEN MORE HEAVILY AGAINST GOP GIVEN SUBSEQUENT OSLO AND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, REPORTS OF MASSACRES IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND APPARENT DETERIORATION IN SECURITY SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR US TO VOTE WITH THE MAJORITY OR AT LEAST TO ABSTAIN, PARTICULARLY SINCE VOTE WILL HIGHLIGHT THE INEFFECTUALITY OF RESISTANCE TO INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF LIBERATION GROUPS IN UN PROCEEDINGS AND WILL UNDERLINE OUR INCREASING ISOLATION ON THIS ISSUE. WE OF COURSE REGRET THESE ASPECTS AS PRACTICAL MATTER BUT BELIEVE THAT BASIC PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED WITH BROAD POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF A WORLD-WIDE NATURE WHICH IS OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE. ACCORDINGLY, WE SHALL NEITHER AVOID VOTE ON THIS QUESTION NOR FAIL TO REGISTER CLEARLY OUR OPPOSITION TO GIVING LIBERATION REPRESENTATIVES OFFICIAL STATUS IN UN DELIBERATIONS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT TO ACQUIESCE IN COMMITTEE CONSENSUS TO CONTINUE PRECEDENT SET IN 27TH GA WOULD GIVE A MISLEADING SIGNAL OF CHANGE IN BASIC US POSITION WHEN THERE HAS BEEN NO ALTERATION. OUR BASIC STAND REMAINS THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FROM WHATEVER GEOGRAPHIC AREA ARE NOT ENTITLED TO OFFICIAL STATUS IN UN PROCEEDINGS AND THAT TO AWARD THEM SUCH STATUS CONSTITUTES INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES CONTRARY TO THE UN CHARTER. (ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT CALL ATTENTION TO THIS PUBLICLY, WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR LATIN AMERICA, MIDDLE EAST AND FAR EAST, AND ON SELECTIVE BASIS THIS CONCERN CAN PRIVATELY BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF AFRICAN REPS, SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT AFRICAN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR VOTE.) IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT ANY CHANGE OF US POSITION ON STATUS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MIGHT HAVE ON US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS ON EVE OF AZORES NEGOTIATIONS. FINALLY, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO RAISE ANY FALSE EXPECTATIONS THAT A CHANGE IN OUR ROLE COULD AROUSE IN OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND IN LIBERATION GROUPS ELSEWHERE.

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WHILE WE WILL WANT TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF LANGUAGE IN PORTUGUESE PROPOSAL, WE EXPECT ISSUE WILL BE IN TERMS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR, AND WE THEREFORE INTEND TO ADOPT LINE SIMILAR TO THAT TAKEN DURING 27TH GA. ACCORDINGLY, AND IN ADDITION TO INDICATING OUR POSITION IN PRINCIPLE AS CITED ABOVE, MISSION ALSO SHOULD ANTICIPATE AND EXPLAIN SPECIFICS OF US POSTURE ALONG

FOLLOWING LINES:

A. WE ARGUED LAST YEAR THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL, AND REGRET THERE NOW NO EVIDENCE OF FURTHER EXPLANATION OR STUDY IN INTERVENING PERIOD.

B. WE PARTICULARLY REGRET FAILURE TO OBTAIN, AS WE REQUESTED LAST YEAR, AN OPINION FROM UN LEGAL COUNSEL AS TO SIGNIFICANCE OF SEATING LIBERATION MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES AS OBSERVERS.

C. WITHOUT CAREFUL LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY CLARIFICATION, IT COULD BE PRESUMED (DESPITE RELATIVELY LOW KEY PARTICIPATION BY LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN COMMITTEE WORK LAST YEAR) THAT COMMITTEE HAS EFFECTIVELY CONFERRED UPON MOVEMENTS A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL STATUS OR RECOGNITION AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TERRITORIES.

D. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GRANTING OF SPECIAL STATUS TO LIBERATION GROUP REPRESENTATIVES IS NOT ONLY UNNECESSARY IN VIEW THEIR ABILITY TO RECEIVE FULL HEARING THROUGH NORMAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURES AS PETITIONERS, BUT ALSO IS POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE IF USED AS PRECEDENT FOR OTHER REGIONS AND OTHER CASES.

E. US POSITION SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS ENDORSEMENT OF COLONIAL POLICIES IN AFRICA OR ALTERATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY PEOPLES OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

5. IN EVENT AF'S IN FOURTH COMMITTEE CALL FOR PROCEDURAL MOTION ON WHETHER VOTE NECESSARY IN VIEW 27TH GA
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PRECEDENT, DEL SHOULD SUPPORT VOTE AND POINT OUT THAT DECISION TAKEN LAST YEAR WAS BASED ON LETTER TO 27TH GA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. GIVEN NEW CHAIRMAN, AND GIVEN FACT ACTIONS OF ONE GA ARE NOT BINDING ON ANOTHER, NEW ACTION BY 28TH GA COMMITTEE WOULD SEEM NECESSARY. RUSH

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